



**Global Methane Initiative
9th Steering Committee Meeting
8 December 2017
Mexico City, Mexico**

FINAL MEETING SUMMARY

Overview

The Global Methane Initiative (GMI) Steering Committee held its ninth session on 8 December 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico. The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Rodolfo Lacy of Mexico’s Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and Mr. Mike Beale of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Representatives from Argentina, Canada, China, Germany, Mexico, and the United States participated in the meeting (see Appendix A for list of attendees). The meeting focused on planning the Global Methane Forum event—to be held in April 2018—and strategic planning for GMI in 2018 and beyond.

The following sections provide more details of the meeting’s discussions.

Agenda 1: Welcome, Opening of the Meeting (Co-Chairs)

Agenda 2: Introductions / Tour de Table (GMI Participants – see Appendix A)

Agenda 3: Meeting Objectives; Adoption of Agenda (see [GMI9/Doc.1](#))

- Approved

Agenda 4: Global Methane Forum ([GMI9/Doc.2](#))

- Planning for the 2018 Global Methane Forum event—to be held in April 2018 in Toronto, Canada—is well underway.
- Canada reviewed the draft program for the week of the Forum, Monday through Friday (See “Appendix B: DRAFT AGENDA – Global Methane Forum 2018” - attachment to GMI9/Doc2).
 - Elements of the Forum include: site visits, technology demonstrations, plenary sessions, technical (sector-specific) sessions, Steering Committee meeting (GMI only, plus separate joint GMI / Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Steering Committee meeting), Science Policy Dialogue (jointly with CCAC).
 - The Forum will include “technology demonstrations” (i.e., opportunities for companies to showcase their technologies / services).
- Comments from the participants on the draft agenda included:
 - There should be some sort of catchy “theme” or slogan to bring together the main topics of the Global Methane Forum (e.g., innovation, technology, finance).
- Suggestions from the group regarding the Forum agenda:
 - There should be opportunities for companies to speak and practitioners with a technical background to inform policy making.

- There are important connections between GMI and CCAC (e.g., the “Supporting National Action Planning [SNAP]” initiative).
- Methane [capture/use] is the only GHG that creates economic benefits, and this should be highlighted as part of the agenda topics or theme.
- Suggestion to have more panel time, maybe some dedicated to financing as part of the Tuesday agenda.
- Mike Beale (Canada) suggestion: Much interest / attention internationally on how to better measure methane, improve understanding of methane emissions; would be helpful to have this link during the Science Policy Dialogue discussion.
- Global Methane Forum may be a great chance to launch a “year of methane awareness” for 2019.
- Dr. Lacy (Mexico) suggestions:
 - Opportunities to include scientists / reports from scientific efforts (e.g., Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 1.5 report, which will include methane), ongoing academic work ongoing (e.g., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, modeling and economic projections).
 - Hear from Oil & Gas Initiative (PEMEX is only Latin American oil & gas company member).
 - Hear from private sector, investors.
- Action item: Mexico will identify potential speakers/participants.
- A. Martinez (Mexico): suggestion to invite Latin American countries to present their SNAP results.
- P. Franklin (United States) suggestions: well-received agenda items in 2016 included site visits and the technical sessions.
- Discussion regarding GMI / CCAC joint Steering Committee meeting:
 - Currently, the meeting is scheduled for 1.5 hours total during the GMF event (during lunch time to allow for Steering committee members to participate in technical sessions).
 - Action item: Canada and the GMI Secretariat will assess possibility to schedule additional meeting time (e.g., Tuesday dinner) to allow more substantive discussion between the GMI and CCAC Steering committees.
 - What are topics that GMI Steering Committee would like to have with CCAC Steering Committee?
 - Science issues; methane and other short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs); update of on-going collaboration; possibility to develop background papers to support the discussion and reduce the length of meeting
 - Opportunity for a joint statement – suggestion to have some quantitative basis – what have we accomplished (in terms of methane reductions, financing, advancing technology) and what do we want to achieve?

Agenda 5: Strategic Planning Ideas ([GMI9/Doc.3](#))

- Discussion on possibility to hold a “Year of Methane Awareness” in 2019:

- Global Methane Forum can be a catalyst to launch this new initiative; an opportunity to convey our plan through a joint statement with tangible outcomes, launch communication about this event.
- There should be a catchy phrase to describe the “year of methane awareness.”
- The campaign should be based on science.
- Goal could be for GMI / CCAC joint Steering Committee meeting to result in a joint workplan for how to implement the Year of Methane Awareness, defining what the role that GMI and CCAC could play in this campaign, which could be to promote methane as a win-win-win opportunity for governments, businesses and investors.
- Dr. Lacy (Mexico): GMI is a “high ambition coalition” and should set ambitious, specific goals; for example, on finance, how much has been invested in these projects and how much more can we do? What else is needed?
- Mike Beale (Canada): Support for “high ambition goal” but sees problem with setting a quantitative goal given lack of data. What could be GMI role in improving data quality about methane emissions, activities, reductions? There is a lot of information available (e.g., academia, IPCC, World Energy Outlook, and others).
- It could include sector- specific targets which could in part build on already existing initiatives (e.g., zero venting).
- P. Franklin (US): Historically, GMI has not set specific targets for many reasons: e.g., voluntary coalition; public / private partnership – don’t want to have a goal for which only Partner Countries are accountable; lacks a trust fund; no mandate for Partners to report; focus is on technology transfer, dissemination of information, bilateral and multilateral collaborations. Goals or objectives that are aspirational and collective (e.g., Arctic Council goals on black carbon) would be more suitable for GMI and its Partners (as opposed to individual, specific, or numeric targets).
- Could ask each GMI subcommittee for suggestions as to “what is a high ambition goal for each sector” to help define what the “pledges” could be in the different sectors.
- GMI Administrative Support Group (ASG): GMI is not in a position to set any numeric targets / goals as there is insufficient data to do so; this would require more data from each Partner Country.
- Dr. Lacy (Mexico): Could build on data countries already provide to other entities (e.g., WRI, UNEP, IPCC) to the extent possible.
- Action item: Mexico will draft a first iteration of a short paper for further discussion on a potential Methane Challenge for 2019 which could be launched during the GMF.
- Discussion on potential annual reporting process:
 - Suggestion to increase transparency for all GMI Partners about the various initiatives undertaken under the current co-chairmanship —and the overall accomplishments of the GMI partnership.
 - Suggestion this could take the form of a “letter from the co-chairs” that highlights all the various activities of the GMI partnership collectively without setting up an official reporting process from member countries.

Agenda 6: Overview of Mexico’s Methane and Climate Policy (see [Mexico’s presentation](#))

Agenda 7: Overview of Canada’s Methane and Climate Policy (see [Canada’s presentation](#))

Agenda 8: Country Updates

- Verbal update from the United States, summarizing activities supporting GMI in biogas, coal mining, and oil & gas sectors, and planned support for 2018 Global Methane Forum.

Agenda 9: Summary of 2017 Events (see [ASG presentation](#))

- ASG presentation summarized key GMI events supported during 2017.

Agenda 10: Next Steps

- Global Methane Forum:
 - By mid-January – a more detailed agenda on GMI website
 - Send speaker invitations (as soon as practicable)
 - GMI Co-Chairs to reach out directly to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Executive Secretary to secure participation in the Global Methane Forum
 - GMI Co-Chairs and teams to reach out to secure plenary speakers:
 - IPCC
 - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development climate finance initiative
 - Canada will develop / circulate some ideas for GMI themes (“catchy phrase) for the Steering Committee’s consideration
 - Canada will invite ECCC Minister Catherine McKenna once a strong agenda has been developed and some speakers confirmed
- Strategic Objectives for GMI:
 - Task force from Mexico (Benjamin), Canada (Mathilde), and the ASG assigned to work on further fleshing out the Strategic Objectives with more detail/ providing a sense of the linkages between the different initiatives
 - Mexico to develop a concept note for the proposed “Year of Methane Awareness” (could be framed as a “challenge”, e.g., challenging all partners to do x, y”)
- Meeting summary: ASG to develop and distribute draft meeting summary

Adjournment

Appendix A

GMI Steering Committee List of Participants

Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Mainero, Embassy of Argentina to Mexico • Alvaro Zopatti, Secretariat of Environment & Sustainable Development of Argentina (via telephone)
Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Beale (Co-Chair), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) • David Backstrom, ECCC • Mathilde Brodeur, ECCC
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Han Jiaye, China Coal Information Institute (CCII) (via telephone) • Fengyun Sang, CCII (via telephone)
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobias Lange, Embassy of Germany to Mexico • Svenya, Embassy of Germany to Mexico
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodolfo Lacy Tamayo (Co-Chair), Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales or SEMARNAT) • Juan Carlos Arredondo Brun, SEMARNAT • Adolfo Contreras, National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático or INECC) • Diana Karin Guzman Torres, SEMARNAT • Benjamin Heras Cruz, SEMARNAT • Ruben Hernandez Monter, SEMARNAT • Abraham Martinez, SEMARNAT
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Franklin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) • Monica Shimamura (GMI Administrative Support Group), US EPA